

HECB Legislative Issues: 2005 Status Report

Reflects status of legislation as of March 3, 2005

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
Operating and capital budgets	<p>The HECB has recommended a \$400 million operating enhancement for higher education and supports the capital priorities identified by the two-year and four-year institutions.</p>	<p>Governor Gregoire and the chairs of the Legislature's operating and capital budget committees are expected to release their proposed 2005-07 budgets shortly after the next state revenue forecast is issued on March 17. Former Governor Locke presented his 2005-07 operating and capital budget proposals in December.</p> <p>The House's proposed budget is expected to reflect the input of an Appropriations subcommittee that met during January and February to consider a variety of K-12 and higher education financing alternatives.</p>
Branch campuses	<p>The HECB approved its recommendations on Jan. 27 regarding future development of the state's four research university branch campuses.</p> <p>The recommendations are contained in the report titled, "The Future of Washington's Branch Campuses," which was distributed to all legislators and many interested parties.</p> <p>Governor Gregoire has endorsed the board's recommendations.</p>	<p>Legislation is moving through the House (HB 1794) and Senate (SB 5411) to address future branch campus developments.</p> <p>HB 1794: Permits lower-division courses at all branches. Freshman/sophomore admissions okay at all but WSU Tri-Cities. Funding "commensurate with a regional university." Priority for each branch to expand offerings for transfer and graduate students. Permits three CTC applied baccalaureate pilots subject to SBCTC and HECB approval. Shifts responsibility for NSIS management from WWU to Everett Community College. Directs HECB to establish and measure performance outcomes for all initiatives in the legislation and issue reports beginning December 2008.</p> <p>SB 5411: Permits lower-division courses at all branches. Freshman/sophomore admissions okay at all but WSU Tri Cities. Funding at "less than a research university" level. Branches may not restrict capacity and access for transfer students.</p>
Confirmation of HECB members		<p>The Senate P-16 committee is expected to begin conducting confirmation hearings for newly appointed members about March 17.</p>

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
CTC applied baccalaureate degree pilot projects	The HECB has recognized the issuance of four-year applied baccalaureate degrees by community and technical colleges as one of many options to expand student access to bachelor's degree programs.	<p>The Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education (P-16) Committee has endorsed SB 5867, to develop three pilots at community colleges and one at a technical college, subject to SBCTC and HECB approval.</p> <p>The House Higher Education Committee addressed the baccalaureate pilot issue in HB 1794. The House bill calls for three pilots at either community or technical colleges, as determined by the SBCTC.</p>
Education finance studies	The HECB has endorsed a comprehensive study of the financing of the state's education system.	House and Senate committees have endorsed Governor Gregoire's proposal to study the state's early learning, K-12 and higher education systems. HB 1380 and SB 5441 were eligible for passage by the House and Senate as of March 3. The higher education study would address financing options, enrollment distribution, tuition and financial aid, instructional costs, K-12-to-higher education transitions, and other issues.
Financial aid fund management	The HECB supports making maximum use of financial aid funds for their intended purposes.	For the fourth consecutive year, the House is considering legislation (HB 1100) to establish a financial aid account in which unspent funds would be retained for the following year. In 2002, Governor Locke vetoed similar legislation. In 2003 and 2004, similar House-passed measures have died in the Senate.
Promise Scholarship program	The HECB administers the Promise Scholarship program and supports expanded funding for student awards.	Former Governor Locke proposed extending Promise Scholarships to the top 20% of high school graduates (up from 15%) who meet income eligibility standards and increasing the amount of individual awards to students to 75% of community college tuition (up from 51%). Identical legislation to support the request (HB 1077 and SB 5075) was not approved by either higher education committee.
Financial aid for part-time college students		The House Higher Education Committee endorsed HB 1345 to expand eligibility for the State Need Grant to students who enroll for the equivalent of at least four credits per quarter. Students are currently required to enroll for a minimum of six credits. The bill awaits action in the House Appropriations Committee.

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
Foster youth education	The HECB generally supports efforts to expand higher education opportunities for students who have been in foster care.	HB 1050 has been endorsed by the House Higher Education Committee to establish a foster care endowed scholarship administered by the HECB, in conjunction with other organizations. Two other bills (HB 1079 and SB 5084) would establish a multi-agency committee, including the HECB, to coordinate state education and job training programs for foster youth. The bills await action by the full House and Senate.
Tuition waiver study		The House Higher Education Committee has approved HB 1986 , which would direct the HECB to review current tuition waivers and recommend priorities for waivers in the future by December 1, 2005.
Resident tuition rates for undocumented students	The HECB works with colleges and universities to administer legislation enacted in 2003, to make certain undocumented students eligible for resident tuition rates.	The House Higher Education Committee has not taken action on HB 1191 , which would clarify that students who hold non-immigrant visas (which require a commitment from the student to retain his or her foreign resident status) are not eligible for resident tuition rates in Washington.
Guaranteed Education Tuition	The GET Committee, chaired by the HECB executive director, has recommended several changes to the state pre-paid tuition law.	HB 2021 and SB 5926 would permit the GET Committee to permit new enrollments when either the purchaser or beneficiary is a Washington resident, and make other changes to improve program administration and efficiency. The bills were unanimously endorsed by House and Senate committees and are eligible for action in the respective chambers.
College in the high school	The HECB supports expanding “dual-credit” programs that grant students credit toward high school and college graduation.	Legislation requested by former Governor Locke (HB 1076 and SB 5076) to establish the College in the High School program in state law has been endorsed by the House Higher Education Committee but not by the Senate P-16 committee.
Running Start student eligibility	The HECB supports expanding “dual credit” programs that provide students credit toward both high school and college graduation.	The Senate P-16 committee has amended SB 5360 , which originally would have limited participation in Running Start to students who earn the state Certificate of Academic Achievement. The amended bill directs OSPI to study the performance and funding of Running Start students.

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
Academy of Sciences		Committees in the House and Senate have recommended legislation (SB 5381 and HB 1662) to develop an independent state academy of sciences to assess public policy questions at the request of the governor.
Strategic planning	The HECB has submitted its 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education to the Legislature and governor.	The Legislature did not pass a concurrent resolution last session on the master plan, but the board has made several presentations on master plan issues during committee hearings this session, and the board has proceeded to implement the plan. The board will meet March 4, with its advisory council to discuss implementation issues. The council's role includes consideration of strategic planning issues.
Affirmative action in college admissions	The HECB supports the limited use of affirmative action criteria in student admission policies at public four-year colleges and universities.	The Senate P-16 committee has endorsed SB 5575 to permit the public baccalaureate schools to consider race, ethnicity and national origin in admitting students. It bars quotas, set-asides or point values for affirmative action considerations. If enacted, the bill would be submitted as a referendum to the people at the next general election.
Statewide student association	HB 3103, enacted in 2004, established a priority for the HECB to serve as an advocate on behalf of students.	The Washington Student Lobby has requested legislation to establish a statewide student association with a permanent, ongoing funding source. As amended, HB 2107 directs the HECB to study the proposal, while SB 5971 directs the HECB to designate a statewide association, approve the by-laws, and establish a fee for students of up to ¼ of 1 percent of tuition, from which students could "opt out." The bills await consideration by the full House and Senate.
Student regents and trustees		The Senate P-16 committee did not take action on SB 5022 , which would have extended the terms of student regents and trustees at the public baccalaureate institutions to a maximum of two years.